

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7688

Joint Petition of Central Vermont Public Service)
Corporation and the Town of Readsboro for: (1))
approval of the acquisition by CVPS of the Town of)
Readsboro Electric Light Department's distribution)
system assets and service territory, and associated)
transactions; (2) the issuance of an accounting order)
which approves the deferral and amortization by)
CVPS of the purchase price; and (3) revocation of)
Readsboro Electric's Certificate of Public Good)

Order entered: 1/5/2011

PREHEARING CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM

This Docket concerns a petition jointly filed by Central Vermont Public Service Corporation ("CVPS") and the Town of Readsboro, requesting the Vermont Public Service Board ("Board") to issue certain approvals related to CVPS's proposed acquisition of the Town of Readsboro Electric Light Department's ("Readsboro Electric") distribution system. A prehearing conference in this docket was held on December 20, 2010. Appearances were entered by Joslyn Wilscheck, Esq., Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer, PC, for Readsboro Electric, Jeanne Burns, Esq., for CVPS, and Laura Beliveau, Esq., for the Vermont Department of Public Service ("Department").

At the prehearing conference, the parties presented a draft schedule. I asked Readsboro Electric to confirm whether any additional municipal votes would be needed to proceed with the sale if the Board approves the proposed acquisition and to address whether any additional vote requirements would impact the proposed schedule. I also asked CVPS to provide additional testimony to explain why the amount it has agreed to pay to purchase Readsboro Electric has

increased to \$360,000 from the purchase price of \$217,000 for its prior proposed acquisition of Readsboro Electric's distribution system in Docket 7480.¹

On December 21, 2010, Readsboro Electric filed a letter confirming that it "has all the required approvals under Title 30 to close on the proposed sale with CVPS."² Readsboro Electric indicates that it is authorized to state that the schedule submitted by CVPS at the prehearing conference is satisfactory to the Department. As CVPS has not yet responded to my request for additional testimony, I have included a deadline in the schedule set forth below.

Accordingly, I adopt the following schedule:

January 19, 2011	Public Hearing
January 21, 2011	Deadline for CVPS to file additional testimony.
January 28, 2011	Deadline for motions to intervene.
February 4, 2011	Deadline for responses to motions to intervene.
	If no motions to intervene are filed, the parties will file either a proposed Stipulation or proposed litigation schedule by this date.
February 18, 2011	If motions to intervene are filed, the parties will file either a proposed Stipulation or proposed litigation schedule by this date.
March 4, 2011	Technical Hearing ³

The Department will proceed with informal discovery on the petitioners. At the prehearing conference, I asked the parties to provide a draft Proposal for Decision at the time any proposed Stipulation is filed. In drafting the Proposal for Decision, it would be helpful for the parties to be consistent with the format of the Board's Order approving the sale of Readsboro Electric to CVPS issued on January 28, 2009, in Docket 7480. The parties should also, as appropriate to the circumstances of this docket, address the concerns raised in that Order. The

1. The previous proposed acquisition was not consummated because it did not receive the required supporting municipal vote.

2. Letter from Joslyn Wilschek, Esq., for Readsboro Electric, to Susan M. Hudson, Clerk of the Board, dated December 20, 2010.

3. At the prehearing conference, the parties discussed scheduling the technical hearing for either the week of February 7, 2011, if no motions to intervene are filed, or the week of February 28, 2011, if motions to intervene are filed. However, it has been scheduled for March 4, 2011.

proposed Stipulation should also include an updated Exhibit CVPS-JMK-1, the Purchase and Sale Agreement, with all requirements as outlined in the Schedules.

SO ORDERED.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 5th day of January, 2011.

s/ Andrea C. McHugh
Andrea C. McHugh
Hearing Officer

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: January 5, 2011

ATTEST: s/ Susan M. Hudson
Clerk of the Board

NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@state.vt.us)